

City of Reading Charter Board

October 29, 2013 – 7:00 pm

Penn Room

Members Present: Susan Gibson, Jerry Richter, Elizabeth Stanley

Board Solicitor: Eric Smith, Esq

Members of the Public: none

I. Administration

- The Board's next meeting will be November 19, 2013, at 7:00 pm. Public notification will be coordinated through the City Clerk's office. An executive session to confer with counsel will precede the meeting at 6:00 pm.
- The Chair announced there has been no new Right to Know requests.
- The 2013 Charter Board budget and October invoices were reviewed. Year to date total spent is \$192,485.22. November invoices will be forwarded for review when received.
- The Chair noted that Mr. Fegley's appointment is final and Mr. Fegley will be attending the next meeting. Mr. Anewalt's appointment remains pending dissolution of the Charter Review Commission.
- Charter Board minutes were reviewed for meeting of 10/1/13. A motion to accept minutes was made by Mr. Richter, 2nd by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.

II. Education

- No current issues

III. Advisory

- No current Issues

IV. Enforcement

- The Board Chair announced an Executive Session to confer with counsel regarding pending litigation including the appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #32, the Declaratory Judgment Action and Appeal of the Final Opinion and Order of Investigation #34 (Docket #1320083), and procedural matters regarding Investigations #39 and #40.

- The Board entered executive session at 7:15 pm and exited executive session at 8:05 pm. After returning to public session an invitation for public comment was extended, no comment was offered.
 - The Board Chair additionally notes the following :
 - Investigation #41 was filed on or about October 7, 2013
 - The Board was notified of a rate increase for counsel fees commencing January 2014. The Board has enjoyed the same discounted fee schedule from High Swartz (\$210 hourly) since January 2008. Proposed billing alternatives include:
 - a) a flat rate of \$250 hourly for all attorney time keepers and \$120 hourly for all paralegal time keepers, or
 - b) a sliding scale reduced rate of \$280 hourly for partners, \$210 hourly for associates and \$ 120 hourly for paralegals.
- By general consensus, the Board opted for flat rate billing.

V. Closing

- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Gibson, Chair

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